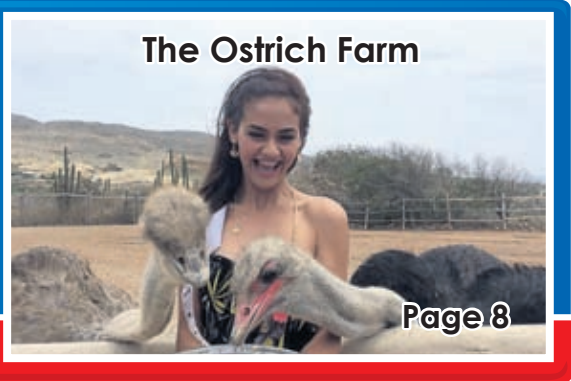




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Democrats and Republicans share core values but still distrust each other

By DAVID KLEPPER
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans on the right and the left have a lot more in common than they might think — including their strong distrust of each other. A survey published on Wednesday finds that when asked about core values including fairness, compassion and personal responsibility, about nine in 10 Democrats and Republicans agreed they were very or extremely important. Yet only about a third of either group said they believed the same was true for the opposing party.

The results of the poll, conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago and the nonprofit group Starts With Us, reveal a stark truth at the source of the polarization that has a powerful grip on American politics: While most Americans agree on the core principles underlying American democracy, they no longer recognize that the other side also holds those values.

Continued on Page 2



An early morning pedestrian is silhouetted against sunrise as he walks through the American flags on the National Mall with the U.S Capitol Building in the background in Washington Nov. 7, 2022. Associated Press

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Democrats and Republicans share core values but still distrust each other

Continued from Front

"This is a hidden opportunity for Americans to reestablish a sense of shared values," said Tom Fishman, chief executive at Starts With Us, a nonpartisan organization that works to bridge political polarization. Americans from both parties need to understand that they still share common values, he said, and to recognize their misconceptions about the opposing party.

Americans have a long tradition of quarrelsome politics, dating back to before the Boston Tea Party. But with the notable exception of the Civil War, a sense of unity has kept those forces of division at bay. Experts who study partisanship and trust say that while a certain amount of polarization is natural, it can become a significant problem when it's exploited by political parties or when one party no longer views the other as legitimate opposition but as an enemy.

A number of factors are cited as possible causes for an increase in division, including the decline and fragmentation of legitimate news sources, politicians who stoke distrust, and social media platforms that spread misinformation while too often sorting users into echo chambers where



British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, third from left, meets with from left, Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of N.Y., Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., and Sen. John Boozman, R-Ark., on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

Associated Press

they seldom encounter an opposing view.

This loss of unity is tied to growing distrust in the media, government, science and public health while political anger has sometimes boiled over into hate speech or violence like that seen on Jan. 6, 2021, when supporters of then-President Donald Trump violently attacked the U.S. Capitol in a bid to overturn the Republican's 2020 election loss to Democrat Joe Biden.

"When you get worried is when polarization turns into dehumanization — a sense that the other is somehow less than human, or evil, or unable to share your decent human values," said Nealin Parker, executive director of Common Ground USA, a group that works to resolve conflict by building trust among Americans. "That should be concerning to anybody, because those are the necessary psychological steps to doing harm to each other."

In the survey, respondents were asked to rate the importance of six principles: personal responsibility, fair enforcement of the law, representative government, government accountability, compassion and respect across differences, and learning from the past. In each case, about 90% of both Democrats and Republicans rated these values as very or extremely important. When asked if members of the opposing party thought

those values were very or extremely important, however, about two-thirds of respondents said no.

For example, while 91% of Republicans said they think it's very or extremely important that citizens should learn from the past to improve the country, only about a third of Democrats said they believed that to be true of GOP voters. And while only 31% of Republicans say Democrats believe government accountability is very or extremely important, 90% of Democratic respondents said they do.

The findings reflect a phenomenon known as "affective polarization," in which disagreements are based on animosity and a lack of trust instead of an actual debate over values or policy.

Julia Minson, a professor who studies conflict and collaboration at Harvard University's Harvard Kennedy School, said recognizing common values is a good start to bridging America's divides.

Too often, Minson said, "We ascribe negative things to people we disagree with. We see them as an adversary that doesn't want to be a partner. It's very much about emotions and trust and largely divorced from actual differences." □



Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., speaks as the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol holds its final meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington, Dec. 19, 2022.

Associated Press

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — The House has rejected an effort to censure California Rep. Adam Schiff, voting to

turn aside a Republican attempt to fine the Democrat over his comments about former President Donald Trump and investigations into his ties to Russia.

House rejects effort to censure and fine Democrat Adam Schiff over Trump-Russia investigations

Schiff, the former Democratic chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and the lead prosecutor in Trump's first impeachment trial, has long been a top Republican political target.

Soon after taking back the majority this year, Republicans blocked him from sitting on the intelligence panel. But Schiff was helped Wednesday by more than 20 Republicans who voted with Democrats to stop the censure resolution or voted "present," denying Republicans the necessary votes.

The censure resolution from Republican Rep. Anna Paulina Luna of Florida, who was elected last year, says that Schiff held positions of power during Trump's presidency and "abused this trust by saying there was evidence of collusion between Trump's campaign and Russia." Schiff was one of the most outspoken critics of the former president as both the Justice Department and the Republican-led House launched investigations into Trump's ties to Russia in 2017.

"By repeatedly telling these

falsehoods, Representative Schiff purposely deceived his Committee, Congress, and the American people," the resolution says.

Special counsel Robert Mueller, who led the two-year Justice Department investigation, determined that Russia intervened on the campaign's behalf and that Trump's campaign welcomed the help. But Mueller's team did not find that the campaign conspired to sway the election, and the Justice Department did not recommend any charges. □

Stove wars: Republican-controlled House approves bills to protect gas stoves

By MATTHEW DALY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Venturing back into the nation's culture wars, the Republican-controlled House has approved legislation that GOP lawmakers say would protect gas stoves from overzealous government regulators.

A bill passed Tuesday would prohibit use of federal money to regulate gas stoves as a hazardous product, while a separate measure endorsed on Wednesday would block an Energy Department rule setting stricter energy efficiency standards for stovetops and ovens. The White House said the administration "has been clear that it does not support any attempt to ban the use of gas stoves," but GOP lawmakers say rules on gas stoves represent classic government overreach.

"It's not a petty concern to the hard-working Americans who will be impacted," said Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla. "The last thing they need is to have the Biden administration's Green New Deal regulatory assault reach their kitchen

appliances."

Democratic Rep. Frank Pallone of New Jersey called the bills a political stunt. "House Republicans are once again putting polluters over people," he said. The bill targeting regulation of gas stoves as hazardous was approved, 248-180, while the measure blocking the Energy Department rule was approved 249-181. Twenty-nine Democrats joined Republicans in supporting both bills.

President Joe Biden opposes both GOP bills as blocking "common-sense efforts to help Americans cut their energy bills," the White House said in a statement. Neither bill is expected to advance in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

The House bills were set for approval last week, but action was postponed after House conservatives staged a mini-revolt in retaliation for Speaker Kevin McCarthy's leadership on a measure to raise the debt ceiling. Led by outspoken members of the House Freedom Caucus, 11 Republicans broke with their party on an otherwise routine procedural vote that

threw the House schedule into disarray for a full week. McCarthy appeared to resolve the dispute late Monday after promising more meetings with GOP holdouts and seeking to reduce future federal spending.

Dozens of Democratic-controlled cities, including San Francisco and Berkeley, California, have moved to ban new buildings from using gas stoves as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve indoor air quality. New York state approved a law last month banning natural gas stoves and furnaces in most new buildings.

Fears of a national ban grew after a member of the Consumer Product Safety Commission said in January that "any option is on the table" when it comes to regulating gas stoves, which have been linked to poor indoor air quality and health harms such as asthma. The remark prompted online images of the government dragging four-burner cooktops from homes, as social media users and GOP lawmakers pledged to defend the popular appliances.



A gas-lit flame burns on a natural gas stove on Jan. 11, 2006.

Associated Press

Debate reignited after the Energy Department proposed a rule requiring both gas and electric stoves and cooktops to use more efficient designs and technologies.

That rule, which has not yet been finalized, could ban about half of gas stove models currently sold in the United States as of 2027, according to a department analysis. The rule would apply only to sale of new appliances and would not affect stoves already in homes or businesses.

House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash., called the department's plan "just the latest in a long line of power grabs by the radical left and Biden administration."

The rule is "not about public safety. It is about telling the American people the federal government knows best and will decide what kind of car they can drive, how they can heat their house and now how they're allowed to cook food for their families," McMorris Rodgers said.

Forcing people to switch to more expensive alternatives to natural gas will increase costs while disproportionately harming the poor and low-income families, she said.

"This is nothing more than a conspiracy theory cooked up to embroil Congress in culture wars that shed more heat than light on the issues facing our nation," said Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon, D-Pa. □

Report: 2020 U.S. census helped guide distribution of \$2.8 trillion in annual government spending

By MIKE SCHNEIDER

Associated Press

The head count of every U.S. resident in 2020 helped guide the distribution of \$2.8 trillion in annual federal spending, underscoring the importance of participating in the once-a-decade census, according to a new report released Wednesday by the U.S. Census Bureau. There were 353 federal assistance programs that used the Census Bureau data in 2021 to steer the allocation of the federal funding, up from 316 programs accounting for \$1.5 trillion in 2017 when a similar study was updated, according to the report.

The federal funding is distributed to state and local governments, nonprofits, businesses and house-

holds. In 2021, it helped pay for health care, education, school lunch programs, COVID-19 relief, child care, food assistance programs and highway construction, among other things. The Census Bureau, which conducts the U.S. censuses every 10 years, doesn't determine how the federal funding is distributed. The increase in federal funding over four years is due to COVID-19 relief spending, as well as boosts in payments for Medicare which provides federal health insurance for people age 65 and over as more baby boomers in the U.S. became senior citizens, said Allison Plyer, chief demographer at The Data Center in New Orleans. "Congress decided that federal funding

should be distributed based on data," Plyer said. The breadth of the programs and the amount of money at stake demonstrate how some communities can miss out on funding opportunities if they aren't counted. The 2020 census was among the most difficult in recent memory because of obstacles posed by the spread of COVID-19, which in the U.S. coincided with the head count. Adding to the difficulties were hurricanes along the Gulf Coast, wildfires in the West and unsuccessful efforts by the Trump administration to add a citizenship question to the census questionnaire, which critics say may have scared off immigrants and others. Black, Hispanic and American Indian residents

were missed at higher rates in the 2020 census than they were in the 2010 census, with the undercount 3.3% for the Black population, almost 5% for Hispanics and 5.6% for American Indians and Native Alaskans living on reservations. Additionally, six states had undercounts: Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas. In an effort to make sure communities get their fair share of money despite the undercounts, the Census Bureau has incorporated other data sources, in addition to the numbers from the 2020 census, to calculate population estimates which are updated each year between censuses and also used for helping determine federal funding. □

Pennsylvania using tons of recycled glass nuggets to rebuild collapsed I-95

By **MARC LEVY**
Associated Press

Pennsylvania will truck in 2,000 tons of lightweight glass nuggets to help quickly rebuild a collapsed section of Interstate 95 in Philadelphia and crews will work 24 hours a day until they can reopen the critical commercial artery, officials said Wednesday. Instead of rebuilding the overpass right away, crews will use the recycled glass to fill in the collapsed area to avoid supply-chain delays for other materials, Gov. Josh Shapiro said. But Shapiro repeatedly declined to estimate how long it will take to get traffic flowing again on the busy East Coast highway. "We're going to get this job done as quickly as possible," Shapiro said at a news conference near the site, over the sounds of heavy machinery working to clear wreckage. He said the work would be done with union labor. Investigators continued to look into why a truck hauling gasoline went out of control on an off-ramp



This screen grab from video provided by WPVI-TV/6ABC shows the collapsed section of I-95 as crews continue to work on the scene in Philadelphia, Monday, June 12, 2023.

Associated Press

and flipped on its side, igniting a fire early Sunday that caused the collapse of the northbound lanes of Interstate 95 and severely damaged the southbound lanes. Workers will fill the gap which is roughly 100 feet (30 meters) long and 150 feet wide by piling recycled foam glass aggregate into the underpass area, bringing it up to surface

level and then paving it over so that three lanes of traffic can reopen each way, Shapiro said. "This approach will allow us to avoid delays due to shipping and supply chain issues and pursue a simple, quicker path," Shapiro said. After that, a replacement bridge will be built next to it to reroute traffic while crews excavate the fill to restore the exit ramp, offi-

cials said. The Biden administration is pledging its aid as the collapse snarls traffic in Philadelphia while the summer travel season starts. It has upended hundreds of thousands of morning commutes, disrupted countless businesses and forced trucking companies to find different routes. Demolition of both the northbound and south-

bound lanes in the overpass was expected to finish Thursday. Trucks hauling glass aggregate could start arriving the same day and will have a state police escort, officials said. The company supplying the glass aggregate, AeroAggregates of North America, has a production site just south of Philadelphia along the Delaware River. There, it mills glass bottles and jars diverted from landfills into a powder and heats it into a foam to produce small, lightweight nuggets that are gray and look like rocks — but are as light as Styrofoam, said CEO Archie Filshill. Each one is about an inch or inch-and-a-half wide. Filshill estimated that it will take about 100 box-truck loads to haul about 10,000 cubic yards (7,600 cubic meters) of the glass nuggets required for the I-95 project. The total weight is around 2,000 tons, a fraction of the weight of regular sand or dirt, meaning that it will take many fewer trucks to bring it to the site, Filshill said. □

Detroit-area city bans LGBTQ+ Pride flags on public property

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. (AP) — A Detroit-area community has banned LGBTQ+ flags from publicly owned poles after a tense hourslong meeting that raised questions about discrimination, religion and the city's reputation for welcoming newcomers. In protest, a woman speaking during the public comment portion of the Hamtramck City Council meeting kissed a woman standing next to her Tuesday night. "You guys are welcome," council member Nayeem Choudhury said. "(But) why do you have to have the flag shown on government property to be represented? You're already represented. We already know who you are."

Some members of the all-Muslim council said the Pride flag clashes with the beliefs of some members of their faith. Businesses and residents aren't prohibited from displaying a Pride flag on their own property.

"We want to respect the religious rights of our citizens," Choudhury said. Hamtramck, population 27,000, is an enclave surrounded by Detroit. More than 40% of residents were born in other countries, ac-

cording to the U.S. Census Bureau, and a significant share are of Yemeni or Bangladeshi descent. The council voted unanimously to display only five flags, including the American flag, the Michigan flag and one that represents the native countries of immigrant residents. Mayor Amer Ghalib made the flag a campaign issue when then-Mayor Karen Majewski flew one on city property in 2021. "We serve everybody equally with no discrimination but without favoritism," he said. Hayley Cain said she chose to live in Hamtramck after moving from California because it was known as a diverse community. "I'm questioning whether

it is. ... The Pride flag represents making space for all humans on all the spectrums, and this is where we're going as a human species," Cain said. "You can't stop that." Dawud Walid, director of the Michigan branch of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a civil rights advocacy group, said Hamtramck's strict flag policy doesn't discriminate against anyone. "If there was one group that was not being granted access to something while others were then we would have a problem," Walid said. He said some Muslims who oppose a LGBTQ+ flag are no different than conservative members of other religions with similar views. □



People who could not get into the Hamtramck city council chambers try to listen via YouTube or on the monitor in the hallway during the city council meeting at City Hall in Hamtramck, Mich., Tuesday, June 13, 2023.

Associated Press

At least 79 dead after overcrowded migrant vessel sinks off Greece; hundreds may be missing

By DEREK GATOPOULOS
and NICHOLAS PAPHITIS

Associated Press

KALAMATA, Greece (AP) —

A fishing boat crammed to the gunwales with migrants trying to reach Europe capsized and sank Wednesday off the coast of Greece, authorities said, leaving at least 79 dead and many more missing in one of the worst disasters of its kind this year.

Coast guard, navy and merchant vessels and aircraft fanned out for a vast search-and-rescue operation set to continue overnight. It was unclear how many passengers were missing, but some initial reports suggested hundreds of people may have been aboard when the boat went down far from shore.

An aerial photograph of the battered blue vessel released by the Greek coast guard showed scores of people covering practically every inch of deck.

Greece's caretaker prime minister, Ioannis Sarmas, declared three days of national mourning, "with our thoughts on all the victims of the ruthless smugglers who exploit human unhappiness."

Coast guard spokesman Nikos Alexiou told state ERTV that it was impossible to accurately estimate the number of passengers. He said it appeared that the 25- to 30-meter (80- to 100-foot) vessel capsized after people abruptly moved to one side.

"The outer deck was full of people, and we presume that the interior (of the vessel) would also have been full," he said. "It looks as if there was a shift among the people who were crammed on board, and it capsized."

A coast guard statement said efforts by its own ships and merchant vessels to assist the boat were repeatedly rebuffed, with people on board insisting they wanted to continue to Italy. Coast guard officials said the trawler's engines



This undated handout image provided by Greece's coast guard on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, shows scores of people on a battered fishing boat that later capsized and sank off southern Greece.

broke down around 1:40 a.m. Wednesday, and just under an hour later, the ship started to list abruptly from side to side before capsizing.

The ship sank 10 to 15 minutes later, the statement said.

Ioannis Zafiroopoulos, deputy mayor of the southern port city of Kalamata, where survivors were taken, said that his information indicated there were "more than 500 people" on board.

Authorities said 104 people were rescued after the sinking in international waters about 75 kilometers (45 miles) southwest of Greece's southern Peloponnese peninsula. The spot is close to the deepest part of the Mediterranean Sea, and depths of up to 17,000 feet (5,200 meters) could hamper any effort to locate a sunken vessel.

Twenty-five survivors ranging in age from 16 to 49 were hospitalized with hypothermia or fever.

At the port of Kalamata, around 70 exhausted survivors bedded down in sleeping bags and blankets provided by rescuers in a large warehouse, while paramedics set up tents

outside for anyone who needed first aid.

Katerina Tsata, head of a Red Cross volunteer group in Kalamata, said the migrants were also given psychological support.

"They suffered a very heavy blow, both physical and mental," she said.

Rescue volunteer Constantinos Vlachonikolos said nearly all the survivors were men.

"They were very worn out. How could they not be?" he said. Rescuers said many of the people pulled from the water couldn't swim and were clutching debris. The coast guard said none had life jackets.

The Greek coast guard said 79 bodies have been recovered so far. Survivors included 30 people from Egypt, 10 from Pakistan, 35 from Syria and two Palestinians, the agency said.

The Italy-bound boat was believed to have left the Tobruk area in eastern Libya a country plunged into chaos following a NATO-backed uprising that toppled and killed longtime autocrat Moammar Gadhafi in 2011.

Human traffickers have benefited from the instability, and made Libya one of

the main departure points for people attempting to reach Europe on smuggler's boats.

The route from North Africa to Italy through the central Mediterranean is the deadliest in the world, according to the U.N. migration agency, known as IOM, which has recorded more than 17,000 deaths and disappearances there since 2014.

Smugglers use unseaworthy boats and cram as many migrants as possible inside sometimes inside locked holds for journeys that can take days. They head for Italy, which is directly across the Mediterranean from Libya and Tunisia, and much closer than Greece to the Western European countries that most migrants hope to eventually reach.

In February, at least 94 people died when a wooden boat from Turkey sank off Cutro, in southern Italy, in the worst Mediterranean sinking so far this year.

The Italian coast guard first alerted Greek authorities and the European Union border protection agency, Frontex, about an approaching vessel on Tuesday. □

Associated Press

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Israeli parliament vote deals setback to Netanyahu

By JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's parliament on Wednesday appointed an opposition lawmaker to the powerful committee that picks the country's judges, defying Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a vote that exposed divisions within the ruling coalition and raised questions about his control over his political allies.

The vote appeared to temporarily avert a crisis that had threatened to unleash renewed political turmoil over Netanyahu's contentious judicial overhaul plan. The opposition had threatened to withdraw from negotiations with Netanyahu over the overhaul if its candidate, Karine Elharrar, was not named to the committee. Despite Elharrar's appointment on Wednesday, the opposition said it would nonetheless suspend talks with Netanyahu until the second vacancy on the committee is filled and it can resume work. "No committee, no talks," opposi-



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, center, is flanked by security as he leaves a meeting with his Likud faction ahead of a vote on picking two lawmakers to serve on a judge selection panel, in the Knesset, Israel's parliament, Jerusalem, Wednesday, June 14, 2023.

Associated Press

tion leader Yair Lapid said. Netanyahu accused his opponents of trying "to blow up the dialogue." Netanyahu's government unveiled the judicial overhaul days after taking office last December, saying the plan was needed to

rein in an interventionist judiciary. Netanyahu's opponents say the plan is a way for the far-right coalition a collection of ultranationalist and ultra-Orthodox parties to gain control over the judicial system, threatening the country's system

of checks and balances. The proposal has prompted hundreds of thousands of Israelis to take part in mass demonstrations each week against the proposed overhaul. The demonstration prompted Netanyahu to freeze the plan in March

and open negotiations, brokered by the country's figurehead president, aimed at reaching a compromise with his opponents. The committee for appointing judges which, among other things, approves the makeup of the Supreme Court has been a central battleground in the overhaul plan.

Both the governing coalition and the opposition traditionally are represented on the nine-member committee. But proponents of the overhaul had demanded that the coalition control both positions, drawing accusations that Netanyahu and his allies were trying to stack the judiciary with cronies. The votes, cast anonymously, raised doubts about Netanyahu's control over his coalition. Netanyahu ordered his allies to oppose all candidates, including its own members, in a maneuver that he hoped would delay all appointments until another vote a month from now. □

Guatemala sentences renowned journalist José Rubén Zamora to six years

By SONIA PÉREZ D.

Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — A Guatemalan tribunal sentenced newspaper founder José Rubén Zamora to six years in prison Wednesday in a money laundering case, concluding a trial that press freedom groups decried as a political persecution aimed at silencing a critical voice.

The three-judge panel convicted and sentenced the well-known journalist on a charge of money laundering that affected the national economy and stability of the financial system. The tribunal cleared Zamora of additional charges of blackmail and influence peddling.

Guatemala President Alejandro Giammattei, and specifically his justice system, have been criticized

internationally for backsliding on democratic principles and weaponizing the country's prosecutors and courts to pursue perceived enemies.

"I am innocent of the crimes," Zamora said after

his sentencing. "I continue being innocent and he (Giammattei) continues being a thief."

Giammattei has denied there was any political motivation. Zamora's El Periodico newspaper was

known as fiercely independent and published investigations about corruption in the administrations of Giammattei and his predecessors. Zamora's work has been internationally recognized. In his final comments to the court Wednesday before the verdict was announced, Zamora said, "all of my rights were violated," including the right to a defense. "They treated us like criminals, they destroyed evidence," he said.

Several of his defense lawyers were arrested in the run-up to the trial.

After the hearing, Rafael Curruchiche, the Attorney General's special prosecutor against impunity who brought the charges against Zamora, was visibly upset and raised his voice, insisting that prosecutors would likely appeal the

sentence and ask for the 40-year sentence they had originally requested.

He said the prison time Zamora would get is compensation for those whose "name and reputation" he and his newspaper destroyed. The charges stemmed from Zamora, 66, asking a friend to deposit a \$38,000 donation to keep the newspaper going rather than depositing it himself. Zamora has said he did so because the donor did not want to be identified supporting an outlet in the sights of Giammattei. The tribunal fined Zamora an equal amount Wednesday. With Zamora in jail, El Periodico was forced to stop publishing a print edition Nov. 30 due to its financial difficulties. The outlet halted operations altogether May 15. □



Journalist Jose Ruben Zamora is escorted by police in handcuffs to court for a hearing related to his trial on alleged money laundering and other charges in Guatemala City, Tuesday, May 30, 2023.

Associated Press

Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use



(Oranjestad)—Though western medicine is now widely used for common illnesses and to keep our bodies healthy and happy, it is still very common in every household in Aruba (and around the world) to have staple home remedies that is passed on through generations. Here are some tips that our elders have passed on to us over the years.

Pineapple

Pineapple has more uses than topping it on your Christmas ham. According to elders, the skin of a pineapple is great to use to refresh your body. Clean the skin thoroughly and make tea or warapa* with it. It is said that this tea can also be drank after an opera-

tion on the ovaries or uterus. This gets rid of irritation and inflammation. When the fruit is unripe and green, this can be used to stimulate menstruation flow in women. This also stimulates the passing kidney stones. When ripe, the fruit can be used for poisoning in the gut and can help treat rheumatic diseases, like arthritis.

However, breastfeeding women who cannot produce much milk are advised not to consume too pineapple, and people with acid reflux are recommended to not consume any pineapple at all.

Arrowroot

Arrowroot is native to tropical America and can be

sold as a powder or whole. It is said that you can take arrowroot powder and make a "shalup" (porridge) for stomach pain or when you're feeling weak. You can make it with milk too, but it is advised to best use just water. You can also add prunes for a bit of sweetness. Arrowroot shalup is also good to treat an unhealthy gut or for diarrhea.

To make arrowroot shalup, boil a bit of water and add one tablespoon of arrowroot powder and stir continuously until you reach porridge consistency. If you make a shalup with milk, add a pinch of salt. Raw arrowroot powder can be used to powder babies.

Eggplant/Aubergine

Eggplants, or aubergines, are easy to find in supermarkets around the world and can be grown all year round on the island. Related to potato and tomato, eggplants are good to calm nerves. It can also be used to lower blood pressure, by steeping its leaves in boiled water and drinking it. You can also make eggplant juice to help purify your blood. However, do



make sure to drink slowly; let it mix with your spit and then swallow.

Eggplant kataplan* can also be used to treat skin tumors, abscesses and hemorrhoids. Eggplant kataplan can also be used ex-

ternally to treat arthritis.

*warapa: term referring to a water and sugar solution, a.k.a simple syrup.

*kataplan: porridge-like mixture used externally for wounds or parts of the body that are painful or swollen. □

George Forbes: Father of the "Parke Curason"

ORANJESTAD - For many years, sports enthusiasts have had a unique place dedicated to their activities. The biggest park on the island, "Parke Curason*" in Jaburibari is a well-rounded park, featuring a covered basketball court, a soccer field, a BMX racing track, a skateboard park, exercise stations, a children's garden, and a 750-meter asphalt path. But one of the best parts is the dedication of the park's 'tata' (father): George Forbes.

The Face of the Park

There are people who just do their



job, and then there are those who make a difference in how they do their job. Mr. Forbes makes a difference when you visit Parke Curason. He greets visitors, walks around to help a child fix their soccer ball, or assists a jogger on the path. He even takes care of the cars that enter and directs them to a nearby parking spot. For many people, he is the face of the place, and we often forget to thank people like Mr. Forbes, who stand out in this way.

150 visitors per day

Linda Reijnders spoke with Mr. Forbes. "I've been working here since I was 13 years old, and I cherish everything about my work. I'm a supervisor and security guard. People come here every day, and the connection I have with them makes me happy." He explains that the park receives around 150 visitors every day. "That's the average, and it can be even more on

weekends."

Every country and every age is represented; indeed, this is a multicultural and multigenerational park. According to Mr. Forbes, the park has been in existence for 14 years, as it was there from the beginning.

"The park looked fantastic back then, everything was new and in good shape. More and more people come nowadays; Arubans love sports more now, and that's great. Compared to the past, it's better, so we need to focus on maintaining the park," Mr. Forbes explains. He enjoys sports himself and always walks around to assist both young and older people. "I'm not someone who sits in a corner to make money. There are many things to consider to prevent accidents."

BMX Training Spot

Before moving to the Netherlands,



Jaymer Carolina was a professional BMX rider, and he confirms the importance of this park for his sport. "The park was my training ground. I trained here six times a week, from 5 to 7 in the evening." He was part of Rough Riders Aruba, where he competed in the 17-24 age category.

The park is not only for BMX groups but also for basketball teams, soccer groups, skateboard enthusiasts, young children, and people who enjoy jogging and walking. Additionally, it serves as a social gathering place.

*"Parke Curason" translates literally to "Heart Park" □

The Ostrich Farm

Matividiri- One of the most entertaining vacation activities is a visit to the Ostrich Farm, a popular stopover on most island jeep tours.

Locals and visitors enjoy the guided ostrich tour at the farm and features a well-stocked locally crafted and produced Art Boutique. The highlight of the visit is always the fun interaction with the resident ostriches and emus, including a trip to the incubators and the bird kindergarten, housing baby ostriches, baby emus, chicken and ducks, and even a land turtle!

It was a National Geographic moment when on cue Mr. Ostrich flapped his wings excitedly and poked around the ground with his bill, triggering Mrs. Ostrich who ran around in circles, flapped

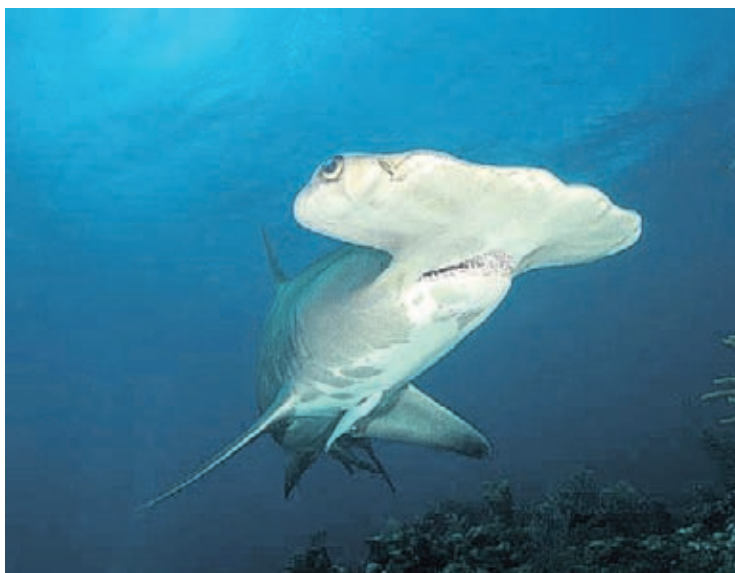
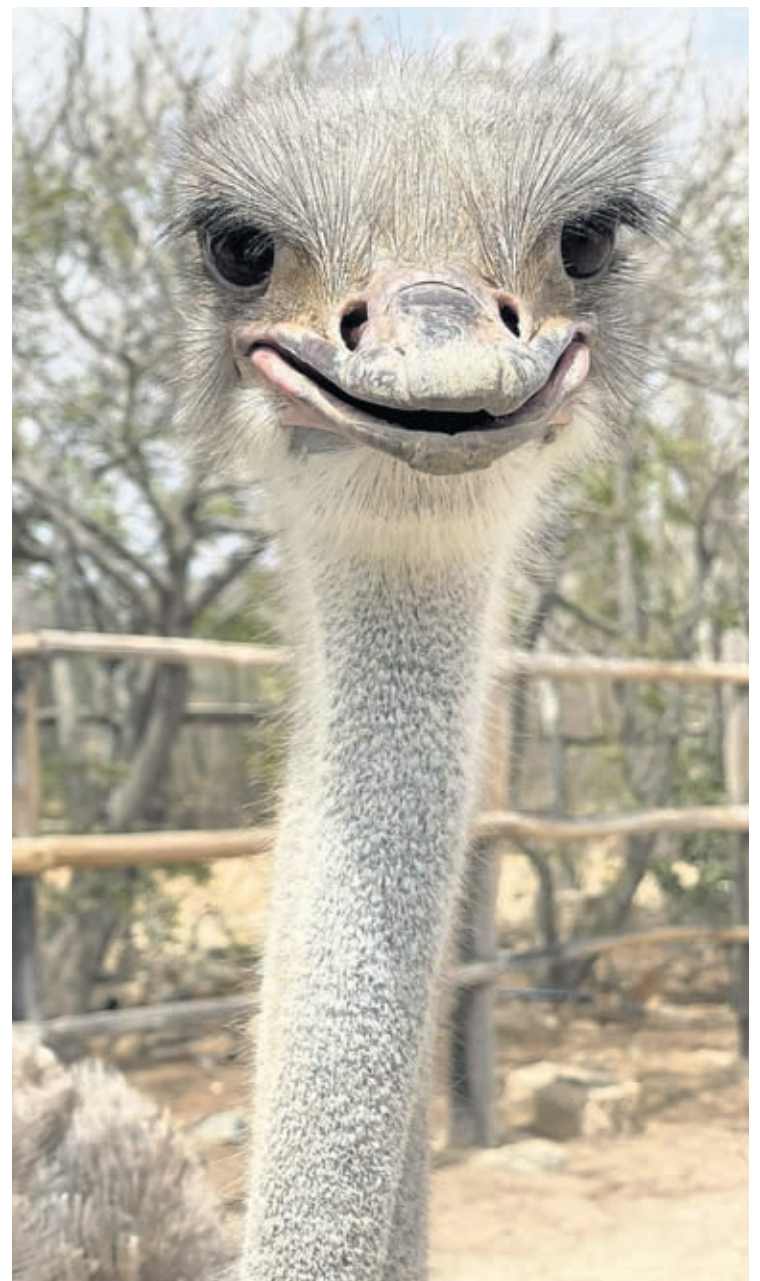


her wings and also poked around, before collapsing on the ground in a heap of feathers, allowing him to mount her, shaking, winding and spiraling his head in all direction!

Mr. Ostrich concluded his unexpected performance with a loud honking, his eyes rolling, then got up in a huff to nonchalantly strut away, leaving his wife and the scrutiny of our cameras. It was a surprise reality TV moment, and not usually included in the regular program. Feeding the Ostriches is however always on the program, and they are eternally hungry, and fun!

Tours are available daily every half hour from 10- 3pm. No reservations needed for small groups. ☐

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For more information go to the website: www.arubaostrichfarm.com



(Hammerhead) sharks play an important role in maintaining healthy oceans, which is important for the fisheries and the economy of the Caribbean islands. Later this year, the Dutch and French governments will officially propose that three species of hammerhead sharks are added to the SPAW Protocol Annex II list during the next Conference of the parties for the Cartagena Convention (COPS) on Aruba. This increased protection will give the Dutch Caribbean the tools they need to further protect these vital sharks moving forward.

Hammerhead sharks, Genus Sphyrna, are found all around the world. Three of nine world's species can be found in the Caribbean, including the scalloped hammerhead, the smooth hammerhead, and the great hammerhead. These species have a similar overall appearance, which makes identifying

Hammerheads Hang in the Balance: Why These Sharks Deserve a Helping Hand

these sharks at the species level complicated. This has resulted in varying success for management and conservation actions, allowing loopholes for unwanted hammerhead shark mortalities to continue.

(Hammerhead) sharks are apex predators, which means that they are at the top of its food web and have no natural predators. Sharks help keep their prey population healthy by eating the sick and injured, while also affecting their prey's distribution. In healthy oceans, sharks help to maintain stable fish stocks and healthy coral reefs and seagrass beds, which is important for the fisheries and the economy (tourism) of the islands. (Hammerhead) sharks are vulnerable to human threats. Overfishing, pollution, and climate change are all factors that can

have a negative impact on these animals.

Protection

There are many organizations and individuals working to protect hammerhead sharks and their habitats in the Caribbean. A significant milestone was the establishment of protected areas such as the Yarari Marine Mammal and Shark Sanctuary between the BES islands. However, additional efforts are crucial to create more marine protected areas, reduce pollution in the ocean, and promote sustainable fishing practices.

In 2017, hammerhead sharks were added to the Annex III list of the SPAW Protocol, but this has not resulted in the desired recovery of their populations. Therefore, the Kingdom of the Netherlands along

with the Republic of France plan to submit a proposal during the next conference of the parties for the Cartagena Convention (COPS) to upgrade these sharks to the Annex II list. This will allow for these species to receive additional protection moving forward, ensuring these sharks are free to roam the Caribbean waters and contribute to healthy ecosystems for years to come. ☐

Photo credit: Ben Phillips (all rights reserved)



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Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure to recognize Distinguished Visitors and Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. These visitors were respectively honored with certificates acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests whom have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitors
Mr. John & Mrs. Linda Rodolewicz from Rhode Island, United States.

Emerald Ambassadors
Mrs. Ronni Davanzo and her husband, Mr. Robert Davanzo, in loving memory. May his soul rest in peace.
Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa



bestowed the certifications to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by Mr. & Mrs. Rodolewicz were:
Aruba's sunny weather all year round

Aruba's nice sandy beaches – Eagle Beach
Aruba's picturesque sunsets
Aruba's welcoming people
The variety of restaurants to choose from

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by Mr. & Mrs. Davanzo were:
Aruba's year-round sunny weather
Aruba's warm and welcoming

people
The comforting sense of safety
"Aruba is our home-away-from-home"
Friendships made over the years with both locals as well as tourists

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for always having Aruba dear to their hearts. □



Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best mo-

ments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. □

Aruba's way back in time of the Paleo lithic hunters and gatherers

Episode 1: Coming from the North

Oranjestad — Nothing stood in their way and no-where in the new world seems to have been too far to reach, if it only offered enough resources to make life easier. It was the time when atmospheric conditions indicated that the average temperature -about twelve thousand years ago- was six to twelve degrees cooler than it is today, in the southwestern Caribbean area. Climate conditions were drier, but it gradually became more humid than what it is in present days. This was the time of the preceramic hunters and gatherers.

Yes, Aruba's landscape was also covered with a greater amount of flora in that time. The overall conditions in which these ancient marauders found this land upon their arrival was in every aspect much more favorable for people that were cultured and trained to carry everything with them on their back or as required, have technical skills and make use of plants. Like to be able to read the slightest atmospheric variations to predict the weather conditions or that greater sense of smell that was developed to distinguish scents of different animals, coming rain or ripen fruits. All this together and more contributed to an easy and a sustainable way of life in a harsh and wild environment.

Mother Earth

The island's landscape and topography in many areas

offered perfect layouts that formed zones where people were able to walk for hours under a green canopies of rain forest, where trees blocked the incoming sun light during the whole year. Forest consisting of mixed vegetation made out of ferns, orchids, vines and bromeliads Etc. Many of these plants have long disappeared and are to be considered extinct varieties, lost forever.

Who knows what medicinal properties, food source, color pigment or even an effective insect or vermin repeller these plants could have carried? Even though it is a small island, there were also places that were open grasslands or savannas covered with cactus and xerophilous, while other zones were made out of wet lands and natural salt pans. However there were no mango tree or coconut palms, tamarind juice or watermelons and everything they knew about electricity was that he was the father of fire, wind and water and that the earth was their mother and mother of all things. He, who came from beyond the clouds and lit up the night skies with his flash and thundering voice.

Bays of Aruba

We must try to imagine by picturing how the southern coast was covered with a thick mix of many mangroves varieties that had their roots in the sea direct in front of the coast line, forming impenetrable and



different kind of forests this time, these mangroves offered on its part, a great deal of marine resources including timber. Coastal mangrove forests grew so thick and dense that it only gave way in a few places to reach shore with dug out tree trunk canoes. These access points to the shore, in time became bays and some are still in use today. Places like the Commandeursbaai at Savaneta or the Spanish Lagoon, Barchadera, the Lagoon and Paardenbaai in Oranjestad.

However, there used to be another bay in Oranjestad which was called Taratata, the only bay that carried the toponym or name given by our Paleo hunters. It is what probably meant, the place of arrival, related to Taratara in Venezuela that means, place of departure in the Paleolithic language. Regrettably Taratata has been absorbed with the expansion of the late container haven at Paardenbaai together with its name almost forgotten in time.

Greater Area

Many different animals lived in the greater area, some familiar but many others only exist today in old records, books and in fossil exhibits in museums or stored in warehouses around the globe as testimony of their once existence and as world extinct fauna collections. Among the extinct mega fauna we find the camel, giant armadillo, short-faced bear, long-horned bison, mastodon, tapir, ground sloth, saber-toothed tiger, mammoth, dire wolf, and horses on the American continent (the present horse was later reintroduced by the conquistadors). In the beginning of the Paleo-Lithic era, occupation of the American continent started by archaic hunters who followed these big mammals like the mammoth in to North America.

One possible route that these hunters could have followed to reach the Caribbean was from the Floridian pan handle jumping

island to island till reaching the southern continent or jumping from the Yucatan peninsula to Cuba and the islands. And the most probable route of accessing Aruba most have been from the South American continent. This would have been the shortest and easiest way to reach the island. There is no doubt that the distance must have been closer to the isthmus of Paraguaná and sea levels where 60 to 90 meters lower further in time.

The land that today forms the land stretched out till the foot of the Sta. Anna hill in South America, so that the island was attached to the South American land mass beyond sea level, since we are positioned on the continental shelf, meaning that many animals and variety of sub-archaic cultures within an archaic context during thousands of years could have reached this part of the world by just walking. □

Source: Island Insight column by Etnia Nativa.



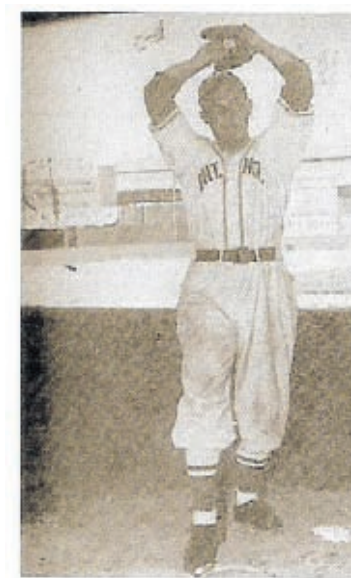
Short history of the beginnings of baseball in Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Baseball was played on the island of Aruba in the 1930's, but only by United States expatriates working for LAGO and living inside the LAGO colony. Jim Bluejacket, the legendary US Indian who had played in two major league teams, worked for LAGO during 14 years and was a key factor in the growth of the popularity of the game in the colony. There is no record of Bluejacket ever playing outside the colony.

Outside the colony, the game of baseball was introduced to Aruba by Venezuelan immigrants and sailors on the Venezuelan fishing boats that used Aruba as their home port. They formed pick-up teams and played games on Sundays on an open field behind what is now the Court of Justice. One of the Venezuelans that comes to mind is Felix Garrido, grandfather of our current Prime-Minister.

In the late 30s the leader of this group was Raúl Aparicio, a cousin of Luis Aparicio who is now enshrined in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The Aparicios were evidently very good at sports. Raúl had two brothers who also played baseball, René and Roman. Rosendo, his only brother who did not play baseball became a professional soccer player in the Venezuelan league. Rosendo was nicknamed "Cabeza de oro" (golden head) for a memorable header he scored to win a game for his team.

Interestingly, it was in Aruba that Luis Aparicio played his first game outside of Venezuela. This took place in 1950 when he played shortstop for the school he attended. Later he played for "Cabimas" in a double-header of the Venezuelan Western League. These official games of the league were authorized to be played in Aruba by the Professional Baseball Organization of Venezuela. Several others who played



in those games have also been enshrined.

Luis Aparicio's father was the super popular Luis "El Grande" (the great one) after whom the baseball stadium in Maracaibo is named. He and his brother owned the professional baseball teams "Gavilanes" which later became the "Aguilas", and the "Cabimas".

In the early '40s, another group, mostly immigrants from the Dominican Republic also became very active with pickup teams. Some of these remained active in baseball well into the early '50s; as umpires, managers even as players. Among these were Nestor "Pantin" Guerrero who also had a musical band. Perhaps not so coincidentally, many of Pantin's players were also musicians. Luthai Pantophlet who umpired many years was a well-known drummer. Gaston Hazel was a bongo player; José Bryson and the brothers Nicholson, Teddy and Julio, all played several instruments.

In San Nicolas, baseball was played on the grounds next to where the LAGO Sport Park (now Laveist Sport Park) was officially inaugurated in March 1941.

During the WWII years, baseball got a big lift from the influx of Puerto Rican and US soldiers stationed here. As LAGO was playing a very important role in the struggle against Hitler, it was able to get all the sports equipment needed here to allow more people to participate.

In the '40s only the Lago Sports Park organized baseball championship games. The first teams to participate were Artraco, (Aruba Trading Co.), Esso Garage and Botica San Lucas. In 1945 Venezuelan employees of the Lago refinery participated under the name of "Cafenol", a very popular Venezuelan coffee brand. Two other groups of Venezuelan im-



migrants formed the teams "Cerveceria" (named after the iconic team Cerveceria Caracas), and "Venezuela", although not all members of these teams were Venezuelans. This was also the year that the team sponsored by Roxy Café started to play as "Dodgers".

Dodgers became the dominant baseball powerhouse till the 1950s.

Other teams that entered the baseball scene in the late 1940s: Pepsi Cola (Oranjestad) and St. Thomas Boys (former students of St. Thomas College, Oranjestad). "Baby Ruth" in San Nicolas played initially under the name "Camel" and "Barnes' Ramblers" the only team consisting of Lago Colony players to participate in the Lago Sport Park championships. "Red Rock Cola" was formed in Oranjestad in 1950.

In 1952 the team Pepsi Cola became "Nesbitt's" and had players of seven countries, including two American expats from Lago Colony.

In 1950 a group of prominent members of the Aruba community founded the Amateur Baseball Bond of Aruba (ABBA) to give structure to the management of the sport and became the organizers of official championship games. While maintaining the existing teams in a league that was referred to as A-class, ABBA established a B-class league in which the "Budweiser" and "Braves" played the first years.

By 1952 Aruba became a member of the International Amateur Baseball Association and fielded a team

managed by Joe Proterra, (former pitcher of "Barnes' Ramblers"), that would play for the first time ever in the Amateur Baseball World Series that took place in Havana, Cuba in September. Surprisingly, Aruba won two of its six games and became the darling of the Havana fans. Nell Harms of the Aruban team was named the "Outstanding player of the week" for his performance against Honduras. He allowed just two hits, struck out 15 and hit the only homerun of the game. Joe Cambria, the famous scout for the Washington Senators offered him a contract, but Nel was not interested, but the next year, at the Amateur Baseball World Series in Caracas, Venezuela, Nel and Ruben Phillips did sign and in 1954 they played professional baseball the Georgia-Florida League and the Texas-New Mexico League. They were the first Arubans to play professionally, but not the only ones.

During the games in Havana, contacts were made with the organizers of Little League Baseball in Cuba which eventually resulted in the introduction of Little League in Aruba. Little League of Aruba has been extremely successful: It has produced many players who earned baseball scholarships at universities in the United States, a few who played professionally in the Netherlands and different countries in the Caribbean and five who reached the major leagues: Calvin Maduro, Eugene Kingsale, Radhames Dijkhoff, Sydney Ponson, and Xander Bogaerts one of the brightest stars of Boston Red Sox. □

Written by Mr. Clyde Harms

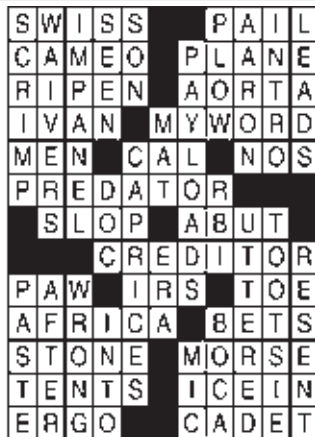
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

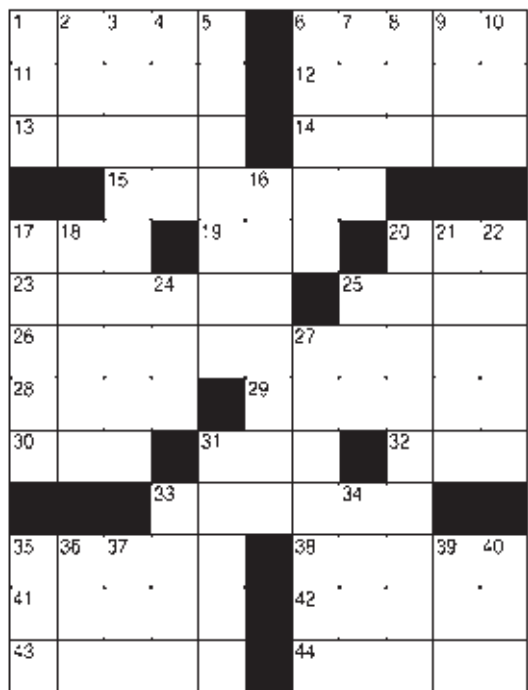
- ACROSS** 43 Gaggle group
1 Aspirations
6 Was sore
11 Like good sentries
12 Roulette bet
13 Old photo tint
14 Boarded
15 Become cheerful
17 Take in
19 Kickoff aid
20 Scathing review
23 Hard to control
25 Head, to Henri
26 Energy-boosting drink
28 Amorous archer
29 Stamping need
30 Go bad
31 Finish
32 Print units
33 Engaged
35 Cargo spots
38 Battery part
41 Parting word
42 Bolshevik leader

DOWN

- 1 Holds
2 Spanish cheer
3 West Indian stew
4 Buffalo's lake
5 Catch off guard
6 Bicker
7 Hen pen
8 Crude home
9 Swelled head
10 Cub's cave
16 Belt loop attachment
17 "Great!"
18 Madrid month
20 Pizzeria supply
21 Top players
22 Uncool group
24 Good times
25 Toll hwy.
27 Still in the deck
31 Follow
33 March time
34 Fresh
35 Crone
36 Lyric work
37 Tell stories
39 Jumble of noise
40 Print units



Yesterday's answer



6-15

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-15 CRYPTOQUOTE

G M I U P M H U J F N O B P H J N

Q I T O M N A T F M A K R J K M Y T O O

C I K Q I U J F N O B P H J N

— NTQQC BIOTETYN

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE LIBRARY IS INHABITED BY SPIRITS THAT COME OUT OF THE PAGES AT NIGHT — ISABEL ALLENDE

How Europe is leading the world in the push to regulate AI

By KELVIN CHAN
AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — Lawmakers in Europe signed off Wednesday on the world's first set of comprehensive rules for artificial intelligence, clearing a key hurdle as authorities across the globe race to rein in AI. The European Parliament vote is one of the last steps before the rules become law, which could act as a model for other places working on similar regulations.

A yearslong effort by Brussels to draw up guardrails for AI has taken on more urgency as rapid advances in chatbots like ChatGPT show the benefits the emerging technology can bring and the new perils it poses.

Here's a look at the EU's Artificial Intelligence Act:

HOW DO THE RULES WORK?

The measure, first proposed in 2021, will govern any product or service that uses an artificial intelligence system. The act will classify AI systems according to four levels of risk, from minimal to unacceptable.

Riskier applications, such as for hiring or tech targeted to children, will face tougher requirements, including being more transparent and using accurate data.

It will be up to the EU's 27 member states to enforce the rules. Regulators could force companies to withdraw their apps from the market.

In extreme cases, violations could draw fines of up to 40 million euros (\$43 million) or 7% of a company's annual global revenue, which in



The ChatGPT app is seen on an iPhone in New York, Thursday, May 18, 2023.

Associated Press

the case of tech companies like Google and Microsoft could amount to billions.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

One of the EU's main goals is to guard against any AI threats to health and safety and protect fundamental rights and values.

That means some AI uses are an absolute no-no, such as "social scoring" systems that judge people based on their behavior. Also forbidden is AI that exploits vulnerable people, including children, or uses subliminal manipulation that can result in harm, for example, an interactive talking toy that encourages dangerous behavior. Predictive policing tools, which crunch data to forecast who will commit crimes, is also out.

Lawmakers beefed up the original proposal from the European Commission, the EU's executive branch, by widening the ban on real-time remote facial recognition and biometric identification in public. The technology scans passers-

by and uses AI to match their faces or other physical traits to a database. □

Classifieds

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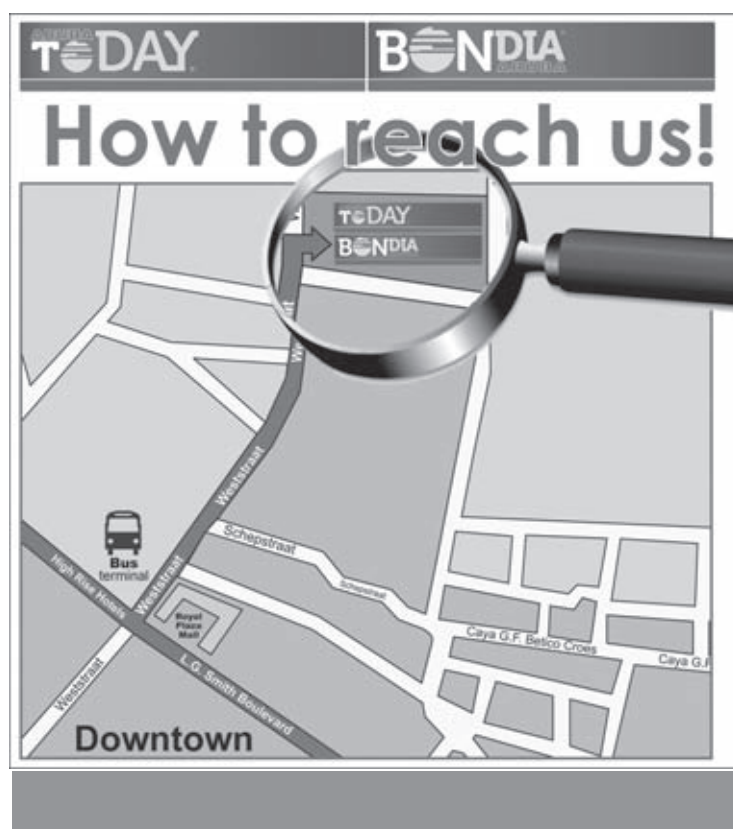
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Pixar's 'Elemental' won't set the world on fire, but it holds water

By **JAKE COYLE**
AP Film Writer

Pixar's "Elemental" conjures a diverse metropolis where the elements — fire, water, earth and air — live like ethnicities mostly ghettoized from one other. For fire and water, especially, mingling can be combustible. A bad splash could consume fire; a strong flame could evaporate water. This is the rare kids' movie where subway rides are actually more fraught with danger than in the real world. "Elemental" is the 27th Pixar feature and the second from longtime studio veteran Peter Sohn ("The Good Dinosaur"). But in many ways, it feels like a spiritual sequel to the Disney Animation release "Zootopia," a likewise gleaming urban tower of anthropomorphized racial metaphors with occasional interactions with municipal bureaucracy.

In "Elemental," Ember Lumen (voiced by Leah Lewis) is the daughter of immigrants from Fireland: Ernie (Ronnie Del Carmen) and Cinder (Shila Omni), both of whom were handed English names while passing through an Ellis Island-like customs entry. Like countless real-life immigrants before them, Ernie and Cinder have scraped together a thriving life and business, a bodega of lit-



This image released by Disney/Pixar Studios shows Ember, voiced by Leah Lewis, in a scene from the animated film "Elemental."

erally hot foods that Ember is expected to inherit. Her temper is a problem. Ember, a red-haired flame capable of going "full purple," can resemble Lewis Black's Anger of "Inside Out." But her more pressing issue is a basement leak out of which flows Wade Ripple (Mamoudou Athie), a water person and building inspector who immediately spots a few dozen code violations that would shut the place down. "Elemental" may not be anywhere near top-tier Pixar, but, with water and fire hazards everywhere, it's certainly an insurance man's dream. So where does it slide into

the Pixar canon? Probably in the lower half. But "Elemental" sincere and clever, with a splash of dazzle comes closer to rekindling some of the old Pixar magic than some recent entries. Yet the marriage of elemental high concept with a classical immigrant tale never quite achieves alchemy. Aside from a beautiful elevated subway that splashes water below whenever a train glides through, Element City doesn't come across a fully fleshed-out world. Despite basing the movie in the building blocks of life, there's little feel for the natural world. Opening on the heels of

raging wildfires, "Elemental" manages to be a movie about fire and water without even a passing reference to today's climate realities. Missed opportunities abound. Earth and air are relegated to bit players. Not a soul sings "The Eternal Flame." Earth Wind and Fire go cameo-less. But if the comic potential of "Elemental" goes untapped, its central story is more convincing and tenderly drawn. Ember, who travels the city with a stylish cloak to keep from igniting things in her path, is one of Pixar's strongest protagonists. The sacrifice and burden of being a first-generation immigrant

daughter is movingly rendered in her.

"Elemental's" strongest scenes are with Ember and her father as they navigate a familiar crossroads. As responsible as Ember feels to her family, she's pulled in another direction. Her real talent is glassmaking, which she can exquisitely do in a moment, with a few quick puffs. She'd be a runaway champ on "Blown Away." Ember, I think, would have been enough to build a movie around.

As they hurry to plug a mysterious leak, Wade is soon carrying a torch for Ember. The puns fly. "You're so hot," he says. "Excuse me?" she replies. "No," he strutters. "Like smoking."

It's a seemingly impossible love story; they fear even touching each other. And they come from much different worlds. Wade, who sort of resembles a watery Colin Jost, lives with his family in a doorman building. But as a match for Ember, he's a bit of a drip. He gushes tears at the mere mention of butterflies and speaks wide-eyed about "embracing the light."

"Elemental" begins to push against a here-to-unknown threshold: There may be only so far you can take a romance when your leading man is a translucent blob named Wade. □

Associated Press

Barbara Kingsolver wins Women's Prize for fiction with 'Demon Copperhead'

LONDON (AP) — American novelist Barbara Kingsolver won the prestigious Women's Prize for Fiction for a second time Wednesday with "Demon Copperhead," the Dickens-inspired tale of a boy's struggle against the odds. Kingsolver's coming-of-age story set in an Appalachia scarred by poverty and opioid addiction was announced as winner of the 30,000 pounds (\$38,000) award at a ceremony in London. Kingsolver, 68, also won the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for fiction for the novel, which transplants Charles Dickens' "David Copperfield" to modern-day southwest Virginia, where the author lives.

to modern-day southwest Virginia, where the author

lives. "Lightning strikes twice,"



Author Barbara Kingsolver attends the 2023 Women's Prize For Fiction Winner's Ceremony, in London, Wednesday, June 14, 2023.

Associated Press

said Kingsolver, who previously won the Women's Prize in 2010 for "The Lacuna."

Journalist Louise Minchin, who chaired the Women's Prize judging panel, said the winning novel was "a towering, deeply powerful and significant book."

"'Demon Copperhead' tackles universal themes from addiction and poverty, to family, love, and the power of friendship and art," Minchin said. "It packs a triumphant emotional punch, and it is a novel that will withstand the test of time."

Kingsolver has long woven social issues into her novels,

which include "The Bean Trees" and "The Poisonwood Bible," and helped establish the PEN/Bellwether Prize for Socially Engaged Fiction. Oprah Winfrey chose "Demon Copperhead" for her book club last year.

"Literature is how we make our hearts grow bigger, and that is how we change the world," Kingsolver said after winning the prize.

Kingsolver beat five other Women's Prize finalists, including Maggie O'Farrell's Italian Renaissance tale "The Marriage Portrait" and Laline Paull's dolphin drama "Pod." □

Vegas Golden Knights win Stanley Cup thanks to depth and consistency

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
AP Hockey Writer

William Carrier glanced around the Vegas Golden Knights locker room at all the talent around him: leading scorer Jonathan Marchessault, first-line center Jack Eichel, captain Mark Stone and more. He marveled at the team's depth and what it has meant.

"It makes a good team, right?" Carrier said. "It makes you win a lot of games." And, ultimately, the Stanley Cup. The Golden Knights are NHL champions for the first time thanks to the deepest roster in the league, which allowed them to withstand injuries at every position and sustain a long playoff run. They got production from 20 players over four rounds, vanquishing Winnipeg, Edmonton, Dallas and then Florida in the final with waves of talent that overwhelmed each opponent. "Our depth has been a strength all year," first-year coach and first-time Stanley Cup winner Bruce Cassidy said. "(Opponents) might have some better players or a better penalty kill or power play or goaltender now we're start-



Members of the Vegas Golden Knights pose with the Stanley Cup after the Knights defeated the Florida Panthers 9-3 in Game 5 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Finals Tuesday, June 13, 2023, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

ing to see that our guys are pretty good, too. I do believe it's been the big strength of our team. I just think it's been really good for us."

Cassidy said in the middle of the final he thought Vegas had the best team in hockey "from player 1 through 20." That's hard to argue with now, after the Boston Bruins (the team Cassidy coached to six

playoff appearances before firing him last year) lost to Florida in the first round following their record-setting regular season.

The Golden Knights eliminated the Panthers in five games, taking advantage of their four strong forward lines and three big defenseman pairings who made life as easy as possible on journeyman goaltender-turned stalwart Adin Hill,

himself a prime example of that depth after being a second-round injury replacement. With only 12 forward spots to fill, Phil Kessel a two-time Stanley Cup winner in Pittsburgh and trade deadline pickup Teddy Blueger were healthy scratches.

"You have enough good guys here to make five lines," said Carrier, one of six original Knights players

left from their inaugural season in 2017-18 that ended with a loss in the final. "We just roll them. Some nights, some lines will have better nights than others, and they step up their games and it's great to have. Anyone can score at any point, and everyone plays well."

Vegas is just the fifth team since the salary cap era started in 2005-06 to have three players score 10 or more goals during a post-season.

It's the only team this year to have four player with eight or more.

But it wasn't just about scoring. The Golden Knights allowed less than three goals per game and punished opponents with calculated physicality, a benefit of the depth that ensured no one player had to be overextended.

"Everyone's got to give a little bit," said defenseman Alex Pietrangelo, now a two-time Cup winner after captaining St. Louis to its first championship in 2019. "We've all done that, and we all understand that maybe giving up a couple minutes to each other's going to keep the energy up throughout the game." □

Henri 'Pocket Rocket' Richard diagnosed with CTE after death in 2020

By **JIMMY GOLEN**
AP Sports Writer

Henri Richard's family says the late Hockey Hall of Famer has been diagnosed with chronic traumatic encephalopathy, the degenerative brain disease linked to concussions.

"I hope my father's brain donation and diagnosis will lead to more prevention efforts, research, and eventually a CTE treatment," Denis Richard, Henri's son, said on Wednesday, a day after the clinching game of the Stanley Cup Final.

"I want people to understand this is a disease that impacts athletes far beyond football."

Richard, who died in 2020 at the age of 84, was di-

agnosed with CTE by Dr. Stephen Saikali at Université Laval in Québec City. The disease, which can only be diagnosed posthumously, can cause memory

loss, depression and violent mood swings in athletes, combat veterans and others who sustain repeated head trauma.

The Concussion Legacy

Foundation said 16 of 17 NHL players studied have now been diagnosed with CTE, including Steve Montador, Ralph Backstrom, Bob Probert, and Hall of Famer Stan Mikita.

"Henri Richard was not an enforcer and CTE still ravaged his brain," said Tim Fleiszer, a former Canadian Football League player who is CLF Canada's executive director. "It is far past time for all of us in the Canadian sports community to acknowledge the long-term effects of repetitive impacts on the brain."

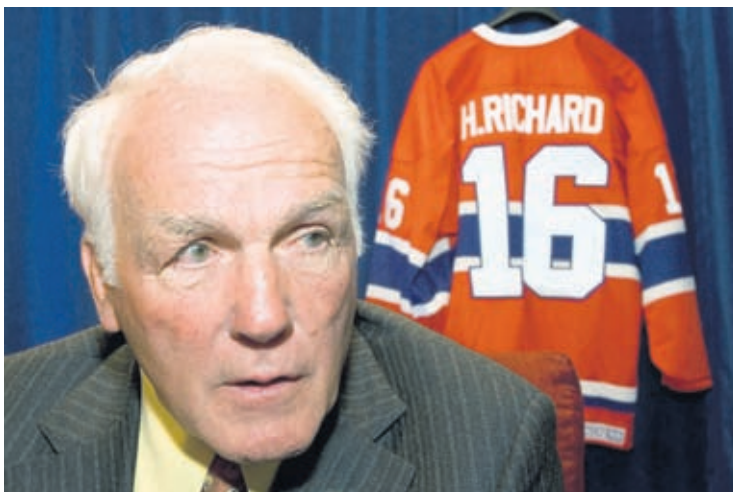
Nicknamed the "Pocket Rocket" after following his brother, fellow Hall of Famer Maurice "Rocket" Richard into the sport, Henri Rich-

ard won the Stanley Cup 11 times in a 20-year career the most in NHL history. He scored 358 goals with 688 assists for the Montreal Canadiens from 1955-75.

Teammate and fellow Hall of Famer Ken Dryden said Richard "fits none of the easy stereotypes" from an era when players didn't wear helmets and fighting was common.

"Like Stan Mikita and Ralph Backstrom, he was a great skater, and physical, but he had a playmaker's mind, and played that way. But all those hits to the head," Dryden said.

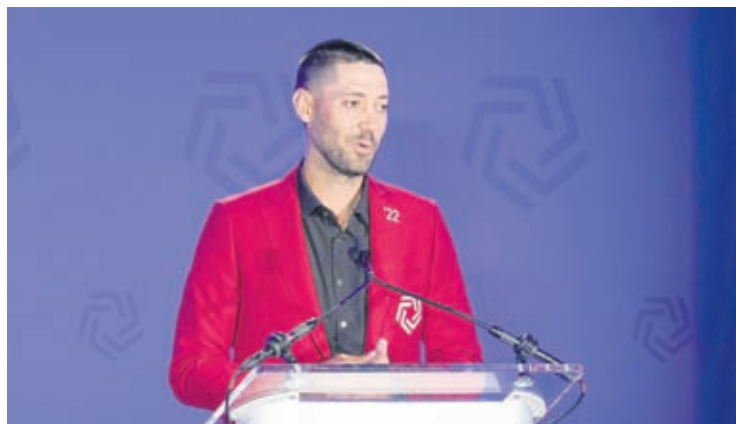
"We have to understand, whatever the sport, a hit to the head is not a good thing." □



Montreal Canadiens' Henri Richard responds to questions in Ottawa, June 1, 2007.

Associated Press

Clint Dempsey says the USSF is taking too long to hire a coach



Clint Dempsey makes remarks during an induction ceremony for the United States National Soccer Hall of Fame, Sunday, May 22, 2022, in Frisco, Texas.

Associated Press

By RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Clint Dempsey thinks the U.S. Soccer Federation hurt the men's national team by delaying its decision on a coach leading up to the

2026 World Cup.

Gregg Berhalter's contract expired Dec. 31 and the USSF appointed Anthony Hudson as interim coach while it investigated a decades-old domestic violence allegation against

Berhalter. An outside law firm said in March there was no impediment to retaining Berhalter, but British executive Matt Crocker was hired in April as sporting director and said he likely will take until the end of summer to decide on a coach. In the meantime, Hudson quit and B.J. Callaghan took over as the second interim U.S. leader.

"I think that they need to hurry up and make that decision because we're running out of time," Dempsey, a former American forward and now a CBS broadcaster, said ahead of Thursday's CONCACAF Nations League semifinal against Mexico in Las Vegas. "I think we took too long in terms of appointing our sporting director and we're

taking a little bit too long in terms of appointing our manager, because time is of the essence."

Since returning to the World Cup in 1990 after a 40-year absence, the U.S. has won just one knockout game, against Mexico in 2002. With the expansion of the tournament to 48 nations, the Americans figure to be among 12 seeded teams meaning they won't face a top-nine nation in the group phase. Reaching the new round of 32 and winning at least a pair of knockout games figures to be the minimum required to consider the tournament a success.

Crocker hasn't publicly identified who is under consideration. If he decides on an American other than

Berhalter, former Leeds manager Jesse Marsch could be a contender.

"This team I think proved a lot of doubters wrong, that they do have the potential, they do have the quality to eventually be challenging for a semifinal spot in the World Cup," former American forward Charlie Davies said.

"I want the national team coach, whoever it may be, to be able to build off of what has already been built. The foundation is there."

Dempsey and Davis will be analysts for CBS's Nations League coverage, joined by retired midfielder Maurice Edu.

The game against Mexico and Sunday's meeting with Canada or Panama in the final or third-place game will be streamed on Paramount+ and the CBS Sports Golazo Network.

Berhalter was replaced by Hudson on an interim basis while the USSF investigated the domestic violence accusation brought to the federation's attention by the family of Gio Reyna, which was angered over his lack of playing time in Qatar. Nearly sent home from Qatar by Berhalter for lack of hustle in training, Reyna returned to the national team and started a pair of March matches.

Edu faulted Gio's parents, former U.S. captain Claudio Reyna and women's player Danielle Egan.

"Gio's already played with this group since the World Cup," Edu said. "I don't know if he's earned his trust of his teammates yet. We're on the outside looking in, right, so we can only just make assumptions. The best way that you go about kind of combating a situation like that and making amends from that is your performance on the pitch. If Gio comes into camp and he's a team-first type player, he's doing all the things that you would want out of a teammate and then ultimately on game day he's out there performing, I think it makes it easier to kind of mend that wound." □



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